



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

September 18, 2012

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-46-12

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL CALFRESH COORDINATORS
ALL CONSORTIUM PROJECT MANAGERS
ALL QUALITY CONTROL PROGRAM COORDINATORS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS (COLAs):
MAXIMUM SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) ALLOTMENTS, STANDARD DEDUCTION, SHELTER DEDUCTION, HOMELESS HOUSEHOLD SHELTER ALLOWANCE, STANDARD UTILITY ALLOWANCE (SUA), LIMITED UTILITY ALLOWANCE (LUA), INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS AND CALFRESH TABLES OF COUPON ISSUANCE – **EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2012.**

REFERENCE: UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS) APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA'S SUA AND LUA, DATED AUGUST 3, 2012, AND ALLOWANCE INCREASE EFFECTIVE **OCTOBER 1, 2012.**
ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 09-12 AND ALL COUNTY LETTER (ACL) 12-25

This letter transmits information on the COLAs for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012-13 (October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013). CalFresh COLAs are effective on October 1, 2012 for Change and Quarterly Reporting (QR) households. If October falls mid-quarter in a QR household, the COLA is effective October 1, 2012, and is treated as a county-initiated mid-quarter change per Manual Policies and Procedures (MPP) section 63-509(h)(1)(F).

Maximum Allotment

Allotments are adjusted by FNS annually on October 1 to account for changes in the cost of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP). Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the maximum and minimum allotments for household size remain unchanged for FFY 2012-13. ARRA raised the maximum allotments by 13.6 percent of the June 2008 value of the TFP and provided that benefits could not decline below this level.

As a result of ARRA, the maximum monthly allotment of \$668 for a 4-person household in the 48 States and DC remains unchanged for FFY 2012-13. In the absence of ARRA, the maximum allotment for a 4-person household would have been \$627 for FFY 2012-13. Thus, ARRA resulted in an overall increase of \$41 in CalFresh benefits, protecting households from any erosion in purchasing power due to the decrease in the TFP.

Income eligibility standards for FFY 2012-13 are listed in ATTACHMENT 1. However, under the ARRA the maximum and minimum allotments remain unchanged. Therefore, counties may continue to use the FFY 2009-10 issuance tables as the basis for FFY 2012-13.

Household Size 1	Household Size 2	Household Size 3	Household Size 4	Household Size 5	Household Size 6	Household Size 7	Household Size 8	Each Additional Person
\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	\$150

Shelter Deduction, Homeless Household Shelter Allowance and Standard Deduction

- The maximum shelter deduction for households without elderly or disabled members for FFY 2012-13 slightly increased to \$469. (See ATTACHMENT I).
- The homeless household shelter allowance will remain the same as last year's at \$143 (See ATTACHMENT I).
- The standard deductions for households and maximum shelter deductions have changed as shown below (See ATTACHMENT I).

Standard Deductions for FFY 2012-13:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$149
4 persons	\$160
5 persons	\$187
6 or more persons	\$214

The minimum standard deduction for household sizes 1 through 3 increased to \$149 a month.

Standard Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2012, the SUA amount increased from \$329 to \$331 for FFY 2012-13. A household that does not qualify for the SUA, but incurs expenses for at least two separate utilities other than heating and cooling is eligible for a LUA.

- As a result of Assembly Bill (AB) 6 (Chapter 501, Statutes of 2011), it is expected that effective January 1, 2013, all households will be eligible to have the SUA used in the computation of their CalFresh allotment. This is due to all CalFresh households becoming eligible for a nominal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program payment pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 18901.2. Further information on the implementation of this legislative change will follow.

Limited Utility Allowance

Effective October 1, 2012, the LUA amount increased from \$99 to \$104 for FFY 2012-13. A household that does not qualify for the SUA, but incurs expenses for at least two separate utilities other than heating and cooling is eligible for a LUA.

Telephone Utility Allowance (TUA)

The TUA amount is unchanged and remains at \$20 for FFY 2012-13. A household that is not eligible for the SUA or LUA, but incurs a telephone expense, or an expense for an equivalent form of communication is eligible to receive a TUA.

Income Eligibility Standards

Eligibility standards are listed in ATTACHMENT I, which include charts of the “Net and Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards” and the “Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards for Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are a Separate Household.”

Tables of Benefit Issuance

Due to provisions of the ARRA, the Tables of Benefit Issuance attached with ACL 09-12, are to continue being used for calculating allotments for all households through September 30, 2013. To request bracketed copies of the issuance tables, that indicate the benefit issuance amounts applicable to categorically eligible households, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Stuffer Notice

The FS 11 (ENG/SP), the general mass change notice, is included in this package. This notice informs clients about changes in CalFresh allotments and the SUA/LUA deduction amount. There is no change in the TUA deduction. Prior to duplication, County Welfare Departments (CWDs) must ensure that the FS 11 notice contains the county-specific address that clients should use to send written state hearing requests.

In accordance with the MPP section 63-504.39, CWDs must inform all households on or before October 1, 2012 of the new CalFresh benefits and deductions. CWDs may opt to use the mass change notice or may notify households via the news media or may post this information in certification offices, issuance locations or other sites frequented by certified households. However, households must be informed of the changes no later than October 1, 2012.

Camera-Ready Copies and Translations

For a camera-ready copy of the English and Spanish forms, contact the Forms Management Unit at:

fmudss@dss.ca.gov

If your office has Internet access, you may obtain these forms from the California Department of Social Services webpage at:

http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_271.htm

Per MPP section 21-115.2, all other translations will be posted on our website on an ongoing basis. Copies of the translated forms and publications in all other required languages can be obtained at:

www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/FormsandPu_274.htm.

For questions on translated materials, please contact Language Services at (916) 651-8876.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your CalFresh county consultant or call the CalFresh Policy Bureau at (916) 654-1896.

Sincerely,

Original Document Signed By:

LINDA PATTERSON, Chief
CalFresh Branch
Attachments

**CALFRESH PROGRAM
OCTOBER 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2013
California Monthly Income Eligibility Standards
Allotments and Deductions**

Net Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (100% of Poverty Level)

	Household Size	Net Income
1		\$931
2		1,261
3		1,591
4		1,921
5		2,251
6		2,581
7		2,911
8		3,241
	Each Additional Member	+330

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards (130% of Poverty Level)

	Household Size	Gross Income
1		\$1,211
2		1,640
3		2,069
4		2,498
5		2,927
6		3,356
7		3,785
8		4,214
	Each Additional Member	+429

Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards For Households Where Elderly/Disabled Are A Separate Household (165% of Poverty Level)

	Household Size	Gross Income
1		\$1,536
2		2,081
3		2,625
4		3,170
5		3,714
6		4,259
7		4,803
8		5,348
	Each Additional Member	+545

Maximum CalFresh Allotments

	Household Size	Allotment
1		\$ 200
2		367
3		526
4		668
5		793
6		952
7		1,052
8		1,202
	Each Additional Member	+150

DEDUCTIONS

Standard Deduction	\$149 (HH size 1, 2, & 3)
	\$160 (HH size 4)
	\$187 (HH size 5)
	\$214 (HH size 6+)
Maximum Shelter Deduction	\$469
SUA	\$331
LUA	\$104
TUA	\$20 (unchanged)
Homeless Household Shelter Allowance	\$143 (unchanged)

NOTICE TO ALL CALFRESH RECIPIENTS IMPORTANT — PLEASE READ

Effective October 1, 2012, State and Federal laws provide for the following:

Maximum CalFresh Allotments: These are benefit amounts your household would receive if your household had no income.

Household Size:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Each Additional Person
	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	+150

- Additionally, the maximum excess shelter deduction has been increased from \$459.00 to \$469.00.
- The homeless shelter allowance of \$143.00 will remain unchanged.
- However, the standard deduction has changed as follows:

Standard Deductions for FFY 2012:

Household Size	Standard Deductions
1 to 3 persons	\$149.00
4 persons	\$160.00
5 persons	\$187.00
6 or more persons	\$214.00

The Standard Utility Allowance has been increased from \$329.00 to \$331.00.

The Limited Utility Allowance has been raised from \$99.00 to \$104.00 for FFY 2013, also effective October 1, 2012.

If the SUA/LUA is used as part of your shelter deduction and if you have had no changes in your CalFresh case, your CalFresh benefits may be changed. With the changes in your CalFresh benefits, the amount you will get depends on other household changes. These changes will be included in any notice you get that tells you about other changes in your CalFresh benefits.

If you think we made a mistake in figuring your October CalFresh benefits due to the new amounts for allotments and SUA/LUA you may ask for a state hearing, **within 90 days of when you got this letter** by writing to:

or you may call toll free: 1-800-952-5253. If you are deaf and use TDD, call 1-800-952-8349. When you ask for a state hearing, you must tell us why you think we made a mistake. You can speak for yourself at the hearing or you can have a friend, attorney, or other person speak for you, but you must get these people to help you. You may ask for free legal aid at a legal aid office in your area.

AVISO A TODAS LAS PERSONAS QUE RECIBEN BENEFICIOS DE CALFRESH IMPORTANTE — FAVOR DE LEER

A partir del 1º de octubre de 2012, las leyes federales y estatales estipulan lo siguiente:

Asignaciones máximas de beneficios del Programa de CalFresh (conocido antes como el Programa de Estampillas para Comida): Estas son las cantidades de beneficios que su grupo para fines de CalFresh (de aquí en adelante llamado "grupo") recibiría si el grupo no tuviera ingresos.

Número de personas en el grupo:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Cada persona adicional
	\$200	\$367	\$526	\$668	\$793	\$952	\$1052	\$1202	+150

- Además, el máximo para la deducción por gastos excesivos de vivienda se aumentó de \$459.00 a \$469.00.
- La asignación de \$143.00 para alojamiento/albergue para personas sin hogar permanecerá igual.
- Sin embargo, la deducción normal ha cambiado de la siguiente manera:

Deducciones normales para el año fiscal federal (FFY) 2012:

No. de personas en el grupo	Deducciones normales
1 a 3 personas	\$149.00
4 personas	\$160.00
5 personas	\$187.00
6 ó más personas	\$214.00

La cantidad normal permitida para servicios públicos y municipales (SUA) ha aumentado de \$329.00 a \$331.00.

También, a partir del 1º de octubre de 2012, la cantidad limitada permitida para servicios públicos y municipales (LUA) aumentó de \$99.00 a \$104.00 para FFY 2013.

Si la SUA/LUA se usa como parte de su deducción por vivienda y no ha tenido cambios en su caso de CalFresh, es posible que haya un cambio en sus beneficios de CalFresh. Con los cambios en sus beneficios de CalFresh, la cantidad que recibirá dependerá de otros cambios en su grupo. Estos cambios se incluirán en cualquier notificación que reciba indicándole otros cambios en sus beneficios de CalFresh.

Si cree que cometimos un error al calcular la cantidad de sus beneficios de CalFresh correspondientes al mes de octubre, debido a las nuevas cantidades relacionadas con las asignaciones y la SUA/LUA, puede pedir una audiencia con el Estado **antes de que pasen 90 días a partir de la fecha en que recibió esta carta**, escribiendo a:

o llamando gratuitamente al 1-800-952-5253. Si usted es una persona sorda y usa un aparato de telecomunicaciones para las personas sordas (TDD), llame al 1-800-952-8349. Cuando pida una audiencia con el Estado, tendrá que decirnos por qué cree que cometimos un error. Puede representarse a sí mismo en la audiencia o lo puede representar un amigo, abogado u otra persona, pero usted tiene que pedirles a esas personas que le ayuden. Puede pedir asistencia legal gratuita en una oficina de asesoramiento legal (*legal aid office*) en el área donde usted vive.